

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 24, line 26, as follows:

In an actual embodiment of the present invention, update metadata for a software update is contained in an XML-based file conforming to an update metadata schema. FIGURE 9 is a block diagram illustrating portions of an exemplary XML-based update metadata schema 900 defining the contents of an update metadata file. In particular, the exemplary update metadata schema 900 defines an Update 902 as comprising the following elements: an UpdateIdentity element 904; Properties elements 906; LocalizedPropertiesCollection elements 908; Relationships elements 910; ApplicabilityRules elements 912; Files elements 914; and HandlerSpecificData elements 916. In regard to elements 906-916, a suitable update metadata file may include zero or more of these elements, as per the tag qualifier "minOccurs="0"" 918. In contrast, an update metadata file must include one UpdateIdentity element [[902]] 904. According to the illustrated metadata schema 900, each update element in an update metadata file, if present, must appear according to the above described order.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 25, line 9, as follows:

As previously mentioned, each software update is assigned a unique identifier. According to aspects of the present invention, the UpdateIdentity element [[902]] 904 includes this unique identifier, as well as other information to identify the software update, such as a revision number also associated with the software update.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 25, line 13, as follows:

The Properties element [[904]] 906 provides information relating to the software update including, but not limited to: a language, i.e., English, Spanish, French, etc., to which the software update has been localized; information suggesting the impact the update will likely have on a computing system during installation, e.g., minimal, high impact, may or will require rebooting of the computing system, and the like; the type of software to be updated by the software update, such as a system driver or a software application; an importance rating

corresponding to the importance of the software update to the software provider; a related security bulletin from the software provider; and an update handler identification for identifying an update handler for the software update. As can be seen from the various types of properties listed above, there may be zero or more Properties elements [[904]] 906 in an update metadata file.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 25, line 24, as follows:

The LocalizedPropertiesCollection element [[906]] 908 provides language specific information relating to the software update such as, but not limited to: an update title; a description of the software update intended for display to a computer user; release notes from the software provider; end user license agreements and related information; user direction for uninstalling the software update; and the like. According to aspects of the present invention, the localized properties are grouped according to a language. For example, while the LocalizedPropertiesCollection element [[906]] 908 may include multiple pieces of information, English versions of the above information would be grouped together, and Spanish versions would similarly be grouped. As will the Properties element [[904]] 906 above, there may be zero or more LocalizedPropertiesCollection elements [[906]] 908 in an update metadata file.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 26, line 4, as follows:

The Relationships element [[908]] 910 provides information regarding relationships the present software update has to other software updates. Examples of these relationships include, but are not limited to prerequisite software updates, ~~superecedence~~ supersedence software updates, and bundled software updates. A prerequisite software update relationship indicates that another software update, identified by its unique update identifier, must be installed on a client computer system prior to installing the present software update. Multiple prerequisite relationships may be joined with boolean operators, such as logical operators AND and OR, into logical statements such that the evaluation of the logical statements determines the suitability of the software update for installation on a client computer.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 26, line 13, as follows:

A bundled software update identifies a plurality of software updates that are to be installed together. As one example, a bundled application may indicate an interdependency between the present software update and other software updates, such that all updates identified in the bundle, identified by their unique update identifier, must be installed if any are installed on a computer system. As with prerequisite software updates above, elements of a bundled software update may be joined with boolean operators to form logical statements for evaluating the suitability of the bundled software update for installation on a client computer. In contrast, a ~~superecedence~~ supersedence software update identifies other software updates that have been ~~supereceded~~ superseded by the present software update. As with the Properties element ~~[[904]] 906~~ above, there may be zero or more Relationships elements ~~[[908]] 910~~ in an update metadata file.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 26, line 24, as follows:

The ApplicabilityRules element 912 provides rules or tests for determining whether a software update is applicable and/or appropriate for installation on a computing system. While similar in some regards to the relationships of the Relationships element ~~[[908]] 910~~, ApplicabilityRules element 912 tests conditions on the computing system that may or may not relate specifically to another software update. As with most other elements identified above, there may be zero or more ApplicabilityRules elements 912 in an update metadata file.